

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 15 and 17-28 remain pending in the present application. Claim 16 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 17-28 are new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.83(a). Claim 16 has been cancelled with its limitations being added to Claim 1. Claim 1 defines the pin as having a cross shape in a cross-section perpendicular to the insertion direction of the pin into the hole. Applicant believes that the perspective view of pin 360 in Figure 1 in conjunction with Figures 3A, 3B and 3C clearly illustrate this cross shape. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 through 8, 10, 15 and 16 are objected to because of informalities. The claims have been amended to overcome the objections. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant believes the rewording of the limitations of

Claim 16 that have been added to Claim 1 overcomes the rejection. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 through 8, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by da Luz Moreas (U.S. Pat. No. 6,032,478). The attachment pin (hook 553) defined in da Luz Moreas is a U-shaped member and is not in a cross shape in a cross-section perpendicular to the insertion direction of the pin into the hole as now defined in amended Claim 1. This cross shape for the pin of the present invention provides the advantages of reducing the wall thickness for the pin which eliminates and/or reduces the pin deformation caused by resin contraction in the resin molding process.

Thus, Applicant believes Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10 and 15, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heine, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,657,817). Similar to da Luz Moreas discussed above, the pin 21 in Heine, et al. is not a cross shape in a cross-section perpendicular to the insertion direction of the pin into the hole. Thus, the above discussion applies here also and Claim 1, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 15, which

ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS


New Claims 17 and 23 are independent claims defining features of the present invention. Claims 18-22 ultimately depend from Claim 17, Claims 24-28 ultimately depend from Claim 23. Applicant does not believe the art cited by the Examiner discloses or makes obvious the features defined by Claims 17 and 23.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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